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CONSIDER THE FLY

The tops of the maples are red with buds; the warm forest glades are dotted with violets and white forget-me-nots (*Houstonias*); an occasional sedge, and in the more sunny spots the Sheep Sorrell (*Oxalis*), are in bloom; and in the deeper shade the Twin Flower. It is early spring. (January 15.)

And as we rest here in this sunny glade in the forest *Musculus domesticus* comes to keep us company. In our towns we call him the "Typhoid Fly" and hire sanitary officers to deal with him, to wage unceasing war against his young. In our dwellings we call him the "House Fly." We screen against him. We trap him. We poison him. We swat him. But here in the woods he is a harmless, sociable fellow—and so hardy!—the first insect to crawl out on a cold morning, a real harbinger of spring. He does not bite like his cousin the Stable Fly. And why blame him for carrying our filth about? It is we who furnish him with his germs. Like too many of us humans he has been spoiled by too much "civilization." Clean up our towns and barns and he would cease to be a menace. Would he cease to exist? Probably not, for I read that on some barren South Pacific island, where the only vertebrate animal to furnish him manure is a species of rat, he is present in abundance. Verily he is a hardy rascal.

THREE SCALES NEW TO FLORIDA

Mr. Geo. Merrill has recently added to the list of the scale insects of Florida three species, as follows:

Gymnaspid aechmeae Newst. was collected from Bromeliaceae at Little River by Mr. Jeff Chaffin. It has also been taken at Gotha.

Targionia sacchari (Ckll.) was taken from sugar cane at Miami by Mr. E. L. Kelly.

Lepidosaphes camelliae Hoke—Camellia Scale. On *Camellia Japonica*. From Oneco to Tallahassee, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi.